

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/786,717

Examiner

James M. Hewitt

Applicant(s)

GARRAFFA, DEAN R.

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1/ ☒ This communication is responsive to the reply filed 6/19/06.

2/ ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 6-10 which will appear as claims 1-8 respectively when the patent issues.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

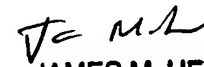
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Leonard Tachner on 8/29/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been rewritten as follows:

Claim 1. --A connection assembly comprising:

- an air pressure hose;
- a scuba second stage regulator;
- a ball and socket, the ball having a hollow stem connected to the hose, the socket having a threaded connector attached to the regulator;
- a pair of spaced apart bushings sealingly engaging the ball within the socket and forming an annular sealed gap between the bushings; and
- an O-ring surrounding the ball within the gap.--

In claim 2, line 1, "connector" has been replaced with --assembly--.

In claim 3, line 1, "connector" has been replaced with --assembly--.

In claim 6, line 1, "connector" has been replaced with --assembly--.

Claim 7 has been rewritten as follows:

Claim 7. --A connection assembly comprising:

 an air pressure hose;

 a scuba second stage regulator;

 a ball and socket, the ball having a hollow stem connected to the
hose, the socket having a threaded connector attached to the regulator;

 a boot for extending over said hose adjacent said ball and socket,
said boot having a wiper portion extending over said socket for wiping
sand from said socket upon rotation of the ball of said ball and socket.--

In claim 8, line 1, "connector" has been replaced with --assembly--.

In claim 9, line 1, "connector" has been replaced with --assembly--.

In claim 10, line 1, "connector" has been replaced with --assembly--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, singly or in combination, a connection assembly as claimed in detail in claims 1 and 7.

The closest prior art, Schuler (US 5,259,375), fails to teach or fairly suggest the limitations "a pair of spaced apart bushings sealingly engaging the ball within the socket and forming an annular sealed gap between the bushings; and an O-ring surrounding the ball within the gap" as claimed in claim 1, and the limitations "a boot for extending over said hose adjacent said ball and socket, said boot having a wiper portion extending

over said socket for wiping sand from said socket upon rotation of the ball of said ball and socket" as claimed in claim 7.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084. .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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8/29/06

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**JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER**